

Irrigation  
30984-29

*Mr. C. L. ...*

Western Navajo Indian Agency,  
Tuba City, Arizona,  
Nov. 6, 1929.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have just received a copy of Supervising Engineer H. F. Robinson's letter addressed to the office under date of November 1st regarding allotments made to the Western Navajo jurisdiction from the fund "Development of Water Supply, Navajos on the Navajo Reservation, Arizona and New Mexico".

The office evidently does not understand the position of the Western Navajo jurisdiction and for that reason I wish to offer the following explanation:

Ours is the extreme western end of the Navajo country. It is off the highway and no main thoroughfares cross this portion of the reservation, consequently, the office does not hear so much about the Western Navajo Reservation and the needs of our Indians. If we were close in like Fort Defiance, Shiprock and Crown Point no doubt a great deal more publicity would reach the office regarding the reservation and our needs. It devolves upon the Superintendent to present to the office the needs of the jurisdiction and if because of a great many other duties he overlooks making such reports and requests for assistance along this line as he should make little is brought to the attention of the office regarding our needs.

Presumably because of this neglect no allotments of money for stock water development had been made us since this work was started 18 years ago until 1927. Since that time we have been receiving our proportionate share considering population as a basis. The office will readily understand that our Indians have not had their share of this money.

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In addition to this the topography of our reservation is such that very little of it is available for grazing purposes and for this reason it is necessary for us to utilize to the best advantage possible those lands that are grazable.

In addition to this the Western Navajo reservation receives less rain fall than the Hopi, Leupp, Southern Navajo and Northern Navajo jurisdictions. I make this statement not only from my own observations but from observing meteorological reports; and because of the contour and of the geology of the country what rain we do receive does not do us as much good as it would on lands of other nature. The rock formations all over the reservation stand on edge at a tilt of from 45 to 90 degrees perpendicularly and when this rock is not exposed it is usually covered with blow-sand which quickly absorbs every drop of moisture that falls on it. Because of this there is no rain fall that can be diverted into reservoirs or tanks except in certain sections of the reservation comprising only a small portion of the whole, consequently we do not reap as much benefit from the water that does fall as some of the other jurisdictions do.

These are not mere arguments but are facts presented for the consideration of the Office and for investigation if the Office so desires. By consulting geological maps in the Office these last statements can be verified and by referring to the allotment records of monies expended on the various jurisdictions it will be seen that my first statements regarding the amount of money received are correct.

It may be said then that hereafter allotments can be made to the Western Navajo jurisdiction in proportion to the population. This would be fair were it not for the neglect during the 15 or 16 years when we received nothing and the other jurisdictions were receiving all of the funds available for this work. In other words, if our stock water development were at present on a par with that of the other jurisdictions we would be satisfied with a per capita basis of allotment, but since we are in arrears with our stock water work I do not feel that our Indians would be receiving their rightful share of this money if from now on the population were used solely as a basis for distributing the money.

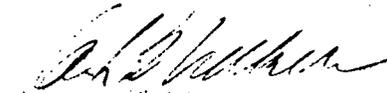
The Indian Irrigation Service has been doing some excellent work for us during the past two years. We have had their full cooperation and under the able supervision of Mr. Womack some very valuable work has been done but there is an enormous amount of work of this kind yet to be done and our Indians are certainly very needy.

I wish to request that the Office have the statements

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I have made carefully checked by supervising Engineer Clotts or any one else who is competent to verify them by actual experience or otherwise and if found to be correct cause to be allotted to us a sufficient amount of stock water development money to bring our work up to where it will be equal to that of the other sections of the reservation and when this is accomplished allot us only the amount of money that is due us from a per capita or other equitable basis of distribution. We do not wish to seem selfish but I do feel that it is my duty to ask for all that our Indians deserve so long as it does not deprive others of their just deserts and it is my honest opinion that our Indians have not had their share. I also believe, however, that it is because our position has not been made clear to the office or that there has been some misunderstanding regarding the distribution of funds.

Very respectfully,



J. L. Walker,  
Superintendent.

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